The Earl of Essex being landed marched some two leagues \\ith his army that night to Ferrol He took the town with ease for the inhabitants had abandoned it and carried away most of their goods, but there was in the Nunnery some stuff, ind in the palace of Bishop Ossonus a library of books, valued at 1,000 marks There was also in the town some fruits and wines and a few hens 5 and in the Fort four pieces of great ordnance whereof one was the fairest and longest culverm which the King of Spain hath Here the Earl appointed Captain Brett to march into the country with 800 soldiers of the strongest, chosen out of divers bands He marched some two or three leagues to a town called Lotha, which he took and burnt, without any resistance, but if any of his troops straggled or were left sick upon the way, as many were, he found them at his return pitifully mangled, some with their hands chopped off, some their nostrils sht, and others killed In this journey he got above a hundred cows and oxen and some swine for victual, and so returned to the Lord General who, after he had sacked and fired the town, the third day returned to the fleet

All being now come on board again the Generals with their council held a new consultation on what was else to be done and how victuals and fresh water might be supplied Some had great desire to go for Lagos, but ere anything was done the fleet was past the Cape St Vincent, where a strong northerly wind took them and forced them to haul off into the sea and towards the Isles of the Azores, Here they called a council again and resolved to go for those islands, assuring themselves to have plenty of fresh water and victuals, and there

to lie for the carracks and West Indian fleet and to encounter with the twenty-five Spanish men-of-war which lay at the Islands, as the Generals were advertised But neither did this purpose hold, for the winds coming contrary, they held a new consultation and that was to bear with the coast of Spain and Portugal, and to search what shipping was in the harbours as they passed This course was thought best, and kept for the most part until they came before the Groin on the 1st August

Now lastly the Lords Generals resolved to come for England, and the rather by reason of the general wants of victuals and fresh water, and for that there were many sick men in the